

**JOINT MEETING OF  
THE GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
AND  
THE ADVISORY TASK FORCE  
10<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

**Friday, October 25, 2002**

**Prepared by:**

**The Department of Natural Resources**

**Office of Conservation**

**Ground Water Management Staff**

## **Call to Order**

### **Commission members in attendance:**

Len Bahr, Office of Coastal Activities

Steve Chustz, Department of Environmental Quality

Zahir “Bo” Bolourchi, Department of Transportation and Development

Phil Boudreaux, Department of Natural Resources

George Cardwell, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District

William “Bill” Cefalu, Police Jury Association

Richard Durrett, Sparta Ground Water Conservation District

Karen Gautreaux, Governor’s Designee

Dean Lowe, Department of Health and Hospitals

Fulbert L. Namwamba, At Large – Geologist/Engineer

John Roussel, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Brad Spicer, Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Michael Taylor, Department of Economic Development

Linda Zaunbrecher, Farm Bureau Member

### **Advisory Task Force members in attendance:**

Jess Barr, Cotton Producers Association

Herschel L. Bourque, Louisiana Ground Water Association

Bill Branch, LSU Ag Center

Dr. Rene` De Hon, Geology Department /ULM

Charles R. Demas, United States Geological Survey

Timothy W. Duex, Geology Department/ULL

Todd Fontenot, Louisiana Soybean Association

Henry T. Graham, Jr., Louisiana Chemical Association

Bradford Hanson, Louisiana Geological Survey

Senator Fred Hoyt, The President of the Senate, Designee

Falcolm E. Hull, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans

Robert Jackson, New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board

Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation

R. Michael Lyons, Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association

Kyle McCann, Louisiana Farm Bureau

Olevia McDonald, Sparta Ground Water Conservation District

Dr. Fulbert L. Namwamba, Southern University

Jeffrey A. Nunn, Geology Department – L.S.U. - Baton Rouge

Bradley E. Spicer, Soil and Water Conservation

C. A. “Buck” Vandersteen, Louisiana Forestry Association

Linda M. Walker, League of Women Voters – New Orleans

Michael W. Wascom, Citizens for a Clean Environment

## **Ground Water Management Staff Report**

An additional 40 water well information sheets were submitted since the last meeting bringing the total to 550. Two just cause waivers were issued for reasons of short notice from the owner and the need to install the well before the hurricane. Two forms were received less than the 60 days prior to the anticipated well installation date, for which no just cause waiver was requested.

Postings to the website included the transcript and summary from the September Commission meeting and the summary from the Advisory Task Force meeting. Also posted were the agenda for today's meeting and updates regarding the Sparta application.

Anthony Duplechin met with interested parties in Minden on two occasions to explain the work the Commission, Advisory Task Force and staff were accomplishing. On October 16<sup>th</sup> Mr. Duplechin gave a presentation to the Louisiana Association of Business and Industries Environmental Quality Council giving the same information. The staff also attended the Technical Subcommittee meeting at USGS.

The staff discussed the possibility of having the Sparta consultants make a presentation during the next Commission meeting. After discussion with the legal staff it was decided it would be more appropriate for the Commissioners to hear the presentation at the public hearing in Ruston. Mr. Duplechin discussed the Rules of Conduct for the hearing. Copies of the Sparta application and supporting documentation were placed in the main branch of the parish libraries in each parish affected by the application. The staff confirmed that this was done and the information was available for public viewing. The public notice for the hearing was published in each of the parish journals of the parishes affected on or before October 19<sup>th</sup> as well as the state journal.

The staff met several times with C. H. Fenstermaker and Associates to discuss the draft of Part II. The draft will be submitted to the Commission staff by October 31. Copies will be sent to the Commissioners and Advisory Task Force Subcommittee chairmen for review.

## **Advisory Task Force Activities**

The Technical Subcommittee met on October 21, 2002 at the U.S.G.S. office. Charlie Demas reported the subcommittee agreed on the factors effecting ground water availability which should be used in declaring a critical area. Those factors include: declining water levels, dewatering of a confined aquifer; saltwater encroachment and compaction of the aquifer itself resulting in long-term impacts on the usefulness of that resource. The definition also considers the number of people impacted, the area of impact and the temporal effects.

For a critical area determination, the subcommittee agreed on the following definition. The critical area is an area where unacceptable movement of the saltwater front occurs; two, water level declines that result in unacceptable environmental, economic, social or health impacts. The extent of the critical area will be defined by projected and temporal impacts.

The question of unacceptable arose. The Commission asked for a tighter definition of “unacceptable”. It was also recommended to use conservation measures before declaring an area critical.

## **C. H. Fenstermaker Quarterly Report**

The consultants gave an update on the progress of Part II. The draft consists of Chapters 6 – 11. Chapter 6 is under revision to include discussion of the need for a clearer, more fluid definition of a critical area. Chapter 7 is the identification of water management strategies. This chapter is a discussion of different water management strategies and technologies to promote water conservation and water management. Chapter 8 includes an evaluation of water management strategies and a break down to look closely at how the different sectors and stakeholders have responded to the recommended strategies. Chapter 10 discusses the legal and innerjurisdictional issues.

There was a lengthy discussion of the draft between the consultants and the Commissioners concerning the permitting of wells versus the registration of wells.

## **Old Business**

No old business.

## **Schedule of Upcoming Meetings**

Friday, November 22, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 4, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.

Friday, December 13, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.

